



Environmental Impact Analysis Process

**Environmental Assessment for
Demolition of SAC Alert Facility**

**United States Air Force
Air Education and Training Command
Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi**

May 2008

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14. ABSTRACT <p>The purpose of the proposed action is to eliminate an obsolete structure from the installation. This environmental assessment (EA) evaluates the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the cumulative impacts. Since the proposed action is a demolition project, no alternative locations were identified for the proposed action. Under the no-action alternative, the facility would not be demolished and the building would continue to be maintained. Resources considered in the impact analysis were air quality, land use, infrastructure wetlands/floodplains, noise, prehistoric and cultural resources, soils, surface water, groundwater, hazardous materials and wastes, vegetation and wildlife including threatened and endangered species, and environmental justice. ? Impacts under the proposed action: A long-term, adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the proposed action due to the demolition of building. The impact of the demolition would be mitigated through the archival of architectural and photographic documentation. A long-term, positive impact to installation land use is anticipated under the proposed action because demolition of Building 1944 would eliminate development in the clear zone and the associated airspace and criteria waiver. In addition the property would change from an "industrial" land use to an "airfield" land use, making it compatible with the Land Use Plan. A long-term, positive impact to storm water (drainage) is anticipated under the proposed action because impervious cover would be removed at Building 1944 and replaced with vegetation. ? Impacts under the no action alternative and cumulative impacts: A long-term adverse impact to land use is anticipated under the no action alternative because the industrial land use for Building 1944 is incompatible with the airfield designation of the property in the Land Use Plan. Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts are anticipated under the proposed action because no significant impacts are anticipated.</p>		
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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
DEMOLITION OF SAC ALERT FACILITY
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), MISSISSIPPI**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess potential environmental impact(s) for a demolition project at Columbus AFB. Columbus AFB is approximately ten miles northwest of the city of Columbus in Lowndes County, Mississippi.

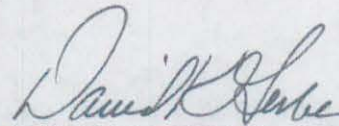
The proposed action is to demolish Building 1944 (SAC Alert Facility). The no action alternative would be to continue upkeep of the building. The no action alternative was dismissed since it would not eliminate the expenditures associated with maintenance nor the airfield and airspace criteria waiver associated with the placement of a building in the clear zone.

All demolition activity is anticipated to occur for less than six months. No measurable impact on the floodplain would result from the proposed action. The demolition of the building would result in a reduction of impervious cover for the installation.

A long-term adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated because the SAC Alert Facility is a Cold War Era structure eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places. The impact of the building's demolition would be mitigated through the provision of architectural and photographic documentation as required by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). A positive impact to land use is anticipated because the proposed action would eliminate the development in the clear zone and the associated airspace and criteria waiver. In addition the land use of the property would become compatible with the Land Use Plan. There are no threatened or endangered species on the installation, and no impacts to wildlife are anticipated. Long-term, positive impacts to vegetation and storm water are anticipated because impervious cover would be replaced with vegetation at the demolition site, improving drainage from the site. Impacts to installation noise would be limited to the duration of demolition and would not affect existing noise maps for the installation. No impacts to installation air quality are anticipated because the building has not generated air emissions since the building was last used. Columbus AFB is in an air quality attainment area; therefore, a conformity determination pursuant to the Clean Air Act is not required.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based on my review of the facts and analysis contained in the environmental assessment, which is incorporated herein, I conclude the proposed action will not have a significant impact either by itself or considering cumulative impacts. Accordingly, the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* have been fulfilled, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

15 May 08



DAVID K. GERBER, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 14th Flying Training Wing

DRAFT

Cover Sheet

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Demolition of SAC Alert Facility at Columbus Air Force Base (AFB)

- Responsible Agency: Department of the Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, 14th Flying Training Wing, Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), Lowndes County, Mississippi.
- Proposed action: To demolish Building 1944 (SAC Alert Facility)
- Abstract: The purpose of the proposed action is to eliminate an obsolete structure from the installation. This environmental assessment (EA) evaluates the proposed action, the no action alternative, and the cumulative impacts. Since the proposed action is a demolition project, no alternative locations were identified for the proposed action. Under the no-action alternative, the facility would not be demolished and the building would continue to be maintained. Resources considered in the impact analysis were air quality, land use, infrastructure, wetlands/floodplains, noise, prehistoric and cultural resources, soils, surface water, groundwater, hazardous materials and wastes, vegetation and wildlife including threatened and endangered species, and environmental justice.
- Impacts under the proposed action: A long-term, adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the proposed action due to the demolition of building. The impact of the demolition would be mitigated through the archival of architectural and photographic documentation. A long-term, positive impact to installation land use is anticipated under the proposed action because demolition of Building 1944 would eliminate development in the clear zone and the associated airspace and criteria waiver. In addition the property would change from an "industrial" land use to an "airfield" land use, making it compatible with the Land Use Plan. A long-term, positive impact to storm water (drainage) is anticipated under the proposed action because impervious cover would be removed at Building 1944 and replaced with vegetation.
- Impacts under the no action alternative and cumulative impacts: A long-term adverse impact to land use is anticipated under the no action alternative because the industrial land use for Building 1944 is incompatible with the airfield designation of the property in the Land Use Plan. Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts are anticipated under the proposed action because no significant impacts are anticipated.

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DEMOLITION OF SAC ALERT FACILITY COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE

Chapter 1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 History of Columbus AFB

Installation construction began in September 1941 and the first flight training began with 25 cadets who had already completed most of their training at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. In April 1942 the installation was named Columbus Army Flying School. During World War II over 7,400 men graduated and received their wings and commission from Columbus. After the end of the war, training activities slowed significantly and in 1946 the field was deactivated. In March 1950, the Air Force field reopened the base as a contract flying school and re-designated it as Columbus Air Force Base. Under the supervision of Air Training Command (ATC), the base provided both basic and primary flight training for pilots during the Korean conflict. The Air Training Command relinquished command to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) in 1955 and, for the next 14 years, Columbus AFB was the home for B-52s and KC-135s. In 1969, SAC transferred Columbus AFB back to the Air Training Command (AETC), returning it to its original mission of training pilots. Since that time, the base has trained pilots in the T-37 and T-38 jet trainers. In 1993 the Air Training Command was renamed the Air Education and Training Command. In 1996, the base added the T-1 aircraft to the T-37s and T-38s in the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) program. Columbus AFB is currently replacing the T-37 with the T-6 (from 2006 through 2010). In 2007 the installation acquired additional T-38 aircraft to conduct Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) training as a result of the 2005 base realignment and closure (BRAC).

The Air Force must maintain the highest level of quality education and training for its personnel. AETC is the Air Force's major command responsible for training and educating its personnel. Columbus AFB, located in Mississippi, is under command and control of AETC and is unique in that it is one of only three bases in the Air Force that trains student pilots in the SUPT program. Upon completion, most SUPT graduates are assigned to other bases for flying assignments in other aircraft. Some graduates remain at Columbus AFB for duty as SUPT instructors.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

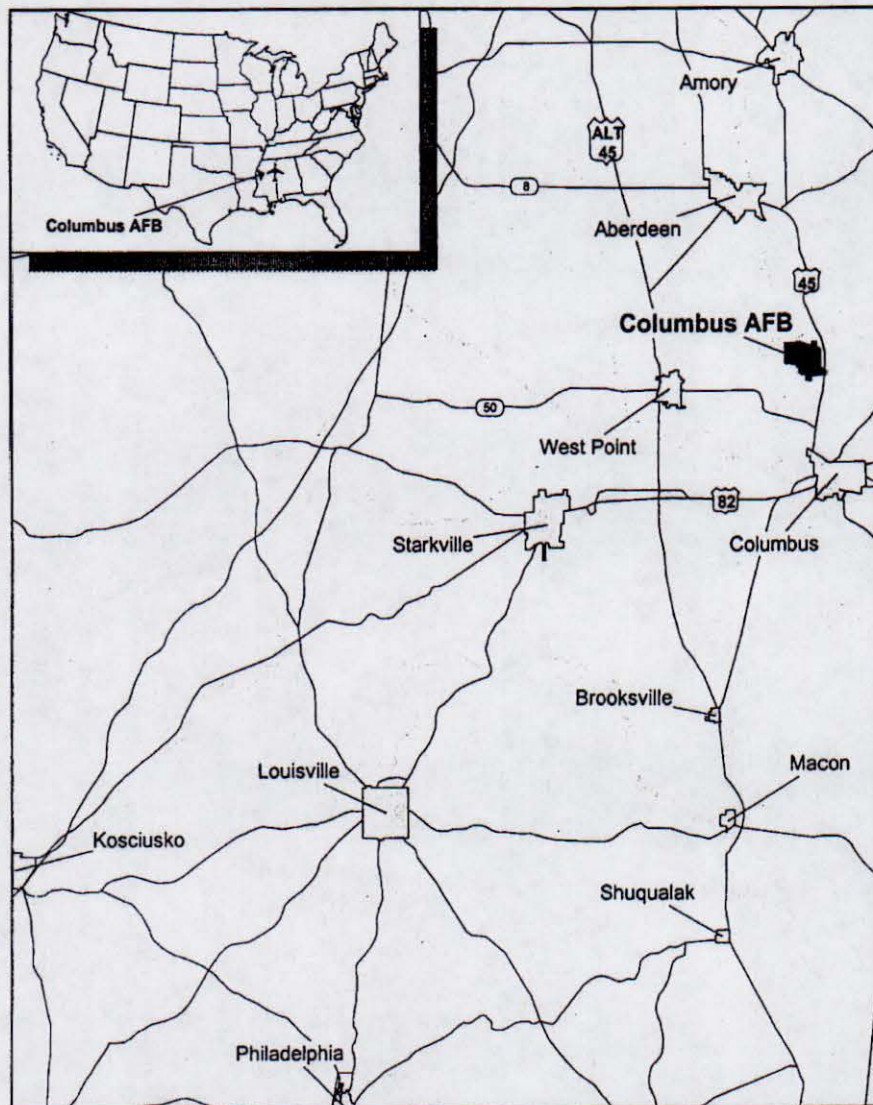
The purpose of the proposed demolition is to eliminate an unused and substandard facility. The demolition would support the Air Force Office of the Civil Engineer Transformation Vision goal to reduce the size of the Air Force's real property footprint by 20 percent by the year 2020. The demolition of Building 1944 (SAC Alert) would eliminate a building located in the runway clear zone, the associated airfield and airspace criteria waiver, and the inconsistency of the existing land use with the Land Use Plan.

1.3 Location of the Proposed Action

Columbus AFB, the home of the 14th Flying Training Wing (14 FTW), is located in Lowndes County, approximately ten miles northwest of the city of Columbus, Mississippi (Figure

1.3.1). The installation is approximately 4,903 acres. The Tombigbee River is located one mile northwest and the Buttahatchee River is approximately 1,000 feet north. Single-family homes and mobile trailer communities are immediately east of the base, U.S. Highway 45 is to the east and southeast, with Oakdale Park Subdivision and mobile home parks to the south. The affected environment includes Columbus AFB and the surrounding properties described above.

The locations of the installation and Building 1944 are illustrated in Figures 1.3.1-1.3.2.



Location of Columbus AFB

Figure 1.3.1 Site Location Map

Columbus AFB



Figure 1.3.2

Location of Building 1944 (SAC Alert Facility)

1.4 Decision to be Made and the Decision Maker

The decision to be made by the Air Force is whether to demolish building 1944 or not accomplish the demolition.

1.5 Scope of the Environmental Review

This EA identifies, describes and evaluates potential environmental impacts which may result from implementing the proposal and potential cumulative impacts from other projects planned for the base. It also identifies relevant environmental permits. As appropriate, the affected environment and environmental consequences of the proposal and alternative action may be described in terms of site-specific descriptions or regional overview.

The preparers considered the full spectrum of resource categories for this EA. However, some topics were evaluated in more detail than others. A preliminary analysis determined the following issues would not impact, or be impacted by, the proposed action or the no action alternative, and eliminates these topics from further discussion.

Air Quality: Columbus AFB manages air emission-producing equipment in accordance with the Synthetic Minor Operating Permit, #1680-00007 and associated local, state, and federal regulations. Electrical and equipment usage for Building 1944 has not generated air emissions in many years due to building closure. Columbus AFB is in an air quality attainment area; therefore, a conformity determination pursuant to the Clean Air Act is not required. Therefore, air quality is not evaluated further in this EA.

Noise: The primary noise source at Columbus AFB is from aircraft operations. Aircraft activities include specialized undergraduate pilot training, aircraft maintenance and transient military aircraft operations. During periods of no flying activity, noise results primarily from aircraft maintenance, shop operations, ground traffic movement, occasional construction and similar sources. This noise is almost entirely restricted to the base proper and is comparable to sounds that occur in typical communities. Baseline noise conditions from aircraft operations at Columbus AFB are defined using the Air Force developed NOISEMAP (Version 6.5) modeling program. Any increase in noise levels during the demolition would be of limited duration and would not change the current noise maps. Therefore, noise is not evaluated further in this EA.

Soils: Columbus AFB soils are moderately well to poorly drained silt and clay loams of the Prentiss Rosella Steens and Cahaba Prentiss Guyton associations. These soils are characteristic of river terrace and floodplain deposits. These soil associations cover approximately equal areas at Columbus AFB, with the upper terrace soils in the southeastern half of the base and the lower flood plain soils in the northwestern portion. These soils overlie gravel and sand deposits, which in turn overlie clay and sandy clay deposits. Soil pH generally ranges between 4.5 and 6.5 and soil bearing capacity is approximately 2000 pounds per square foot. Columbus AFB personnel and contractors are required to manage soil in accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements and with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. The demolition sites would all occur in areas previously

significantly modified by construction, and would have no impact on native soils. Therefore, soils are not evaluated further in this EA.

Threatened and Endangered Species: A United States Department of Agriculture study completed in July 2005 (USDA₁) found no endangered, threatened, or special status species on Columbus AFB therefore, threatened and endangered species are not evaluated further in this EA.

Wildlife: Woodland and grassland vegetative communities support habitat for a variety of wildlife species on Columbus AFB. Confirmed mammal species observed on the base include gray squirrel, southern flying squirrel, swamp rabbit, white tailed deer, bats and rodents. Bird species common to lowland areas include the pine warbler, the cardinal, the summer tanager, Carolina wren, ruby throated hummingbird, blue jay and tufted titmouse. The majority of this wildlife is found in the undeveloped base area. Columbus AFB personnel and contractors are required to manage wildlife in accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements and with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. No impacts to wildlife are anticipated. Therefore, wildlife is not evaluated further in this EA.

Wetlands/Floodplains: The US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted wetlands delineation for the entire base. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, certified the delineation on 31 May 2002 (ACOE₁). The proposed demolition sites are not located within a delineated wetland area or in the 100-year floodplain. Demolition sites do not require floodplains permits even if the project is located in the floodplain, as long no debris is placed in the floodplain as a result of the action. No impacts are anticipated; therefore wetlands and floodplains, which are typically assessed under biological resources, are not evaluated in this EA.

Environmental Justice: Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations was issued on February 11, 1994 (WHITE HOUSE 1994). The EO instructed each federal agency to make "achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." The minority population on the installation and surrounding area is proportionately lower than both Lowndes county and the state of Mississippi. The poverty rate for the installation and surrounding area is similarly considerably lower than the county and state. In addition, the proposed action would not create any changes to the installation visible from outside the gates. Therefore, environmental justice is not evaluated further in this EA.

The following resource categories are evaluated in detail in this EA: cultural resources, land use, infrastructure, hazardous waste/hazardous materials, solid waste, surface water and storm water, groundwater, and cumulative impacts.

1.6 Environmental Requirements and Affected Permits

In accordance with the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP), the contractor would be required to submit a Waste Management Plan and a Demolition Work Plan for each demolition project. The contractor would be required to implement best management

practices to minimize particulate emissions in accordance with the Synthetic Minor Operating (air) Permit. The contractor would also be required to implement site-specific best management practices to prevent storm water pollution in accordance with the Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan. The contractor would also be required to monitor debris removal for Building 1944 to eliminate foreign object damage (FOD).

1.7 Introduction to the Organization of the Document

This EA is organized into four chapters. Chapter 1 contains a statement of the purpose and need for the action, the location of the proposed action, the scope of the environmental review, applicable regulatory requirements and a description of the EA's organization. Chapter 2 provides a history of the formulation of alternatives, briefly describes the alternatives eliminated from further consideration, describes the proposed action and no action alternative, lists other actions anticipated at Columbus AFB and summarizes any environmental impacts. Chapter 3 contains a general description of the biophysical resources and baseline conditions that could potentially impact or be impacted by the proposed action or no action alternative. Chapter 4 analyzes the environmental consequences. Appendix A lists document preparers. Appendix B lists persons and agencies consulted while preparing this EA. Appendix C contains Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning correspondence. Appendix D contains the Air Force Forms 813, Request for Environmental Impact. Appendix E contains the Air Force Forms 1391. Appendix F contains the airfield and airspace criteria waiver. Appendix G lists source documents referenced in this EA.

Chapter 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter has seven sections: Introduction, history of the formulation of alternatives, detailed description of the proposed action, description of the no action alternative, identification of other actions announced for the base, identification of the preferred alternative, and comparison of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and no action alternative.

2.2 History of the Formulation of Alternatives

Columbus AFB personnel manage an ongoing planning process to evaluate how well existing facilities and infrastructure meet mission requirements. Once an obsolete facility is identified, plans are made for demolition to eliminate unnecessary costs associated with maintaining it.

This planning process includes developing alternatives such as renovation and alternate uses. The building identified for demolition in this document has deficiencies which make it unsuitable for renovation or alternate uses per section 1.2.1 of this document. Thus, alternatives other than the no action alternative are not considered in this document.

2.3 Detailed Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to demolish Building 1944 (SAC Alert Facility). The area under the building would be graded for proper drainage and re-vegetated. An artesian monitoring well is located adjacent to Building 1944. The shed and slab for this well would be demolished, and a wellhead protection device would be installed.

Building 1944 was built in 1959 and is 18,360 square feet. It was originally built for personnel to be on instant alert and standby. The facility has had several uses throughout the years, but mostly as temporary lodging, storage, or as an alternate command post.

2.4 Description of the No Action Alternative

The no action alternative is to not accomplish the demolition of Building 1944. Under the no action alternative, this facility would be left in place, and would continue to require general maintenance such as painting and roof repairs.

2.5 Other Actions Announced for Columbus AFB

Base Realignment and Closure (DOD₁) actions require the relocation of additional personnel and aircraft to Columbus AFB, necessitating additional construction. BRAC actions include constructing a new IFF Squadron Operations Facility and expansion of the SUPT building, Flight Simulator building, Egress Shop and the Consolidated Aircraft Support System. An environmental assessment for these actions has been prepared as part of the General Plan-Based Environmental Impact Process, in the EA entitled, Installation Development and Base Realignment and Closure Actions, January 2007(Parsons₁).

A Mission Support Group Complex is under construction, with an estimated completion date of summer 2009. A project replacing overhead electrical and utility lines with underground lines began in 2007 and is planned to continue through May 2008. Construction of a Child Development Center is planned to begin in 2009 with construction continuing through 2011. A Military Family Housing Privatization initiative project including demolition of old housing and construction of new housing is planned to begin during 2008 with construction continuing through 2012.

There are also numerous actions planned for the surrounding area. Expansion of a steel production facility, expansion of a helicopter manufacturer, expansion of an aircraft manufacturing facility and a commercial truck drivetrain manufacturing plant in the Lowndes County Industrial Park, approximately 21 miles from CAFB, are underway and scheduled to continue through spring 2009. Associated projects are underway to supply electricity and utilities to the new facilities. Plans are in place to build a shopping mall at the intersection of Hwy 45 and Hwy 82, approximately 13 miles from the installation. Demolition of a movie theater is underway in east Columbus. These projects are anticipated to bring jobs to the community, and are not expected to impact Columbus AFB.

2.6 Identification of the Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is to implement the proposed action as described in Section 2.3.

2.7 Comparison of Environmental Effects of All Alternatives

Table 2.7.1		
Resource/Applicable Section	Proposed Action	No action Alternative
Cultural Resources 4.2.1	A long-term, adverse impact to Cultural Resources is anticipated under the proposed action because Building 1944 was identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the 2003 Columbus AFB Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures Inventory and Assessment. This adverse impact would be mitigated through architectural and photographic documentation as required by State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) consultation.	No impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the no action alternative because no demolition of eligible structures would occur.

Table 2.7.1		
Resource/Applicable Section	Proposed Action	No action Alternative
Land Use 4.2.2	A long-term, positive impact to installation land use is anticipated under the proposed action. The demolition of Building 1944 would eliminate the development in the clear zone and the associated airspace and criteria waiver. In addition, the property would change from an "industrial" land use to an "airfield" land use, making it compatible with the Land Use Plan.	A long-term adverse impact to installation land use is anticipated under the no action alternative because Building 1944 would continue to be an incompatible land use under the Land Use Plan.
Infrastructure 4.2.3	No impact to infrastructure is anticipated under the proposed action because the demolition would free less than 1% of additional resources with regard to water/wastewater and energy, and no additional infrastructure would be required to support the mission. Traffic would be impacted temporarily due to removal of demolition debris, but would not require additional roads.	No impact to infrastructure is anticipated under the no action alternative. No changes to water/wastewater, energy, or traffic patterns would occur.
Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Materials 4.2.4	<p>No hazardous waste related impacts are anticipated under the proposed action. Hazardous wastes associated with demolition projects would be managed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and with the Hazardous Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>No hazardous material related impacts are anticipated under the proposed action. Any additional chemicals to be utilized in the demolition projects would be managed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and with AFI 32-7086 <i>Hazardous Materials Management</i>.</p>	No impact to hazardous wastes or hazardous materials is anticipated under the no action alternative. No hazardous wastes would be generated and no hazardous materials would be used.

Table 2.7.1		
Resource/Applicable Section	Proposed Action	No action Alternative
Solid Waste 4.2.5	No solid waste impacts are anticipated under the proposed action because no new landfills would be required, and because existing landfills would not close sooner than originally planned.	No solid waste impacts are anticipated under the no action alternative because no construction or demolition activity would occur and no new landfills would be required. Existing landfills would not close sooner than originally planned.
Surface Water and Storm water 4.2.6	A long-term, positive impact to installation storm water is anticipated because impervious cover would be removed at Building 1944. This would improve drainage for the installation and may improve the quality of storm water leaving the installation. No negative impact to storm water quality is anticipated under the proposed action because best management practices would be implemented to prevent storm water pollution.	No impact to surface water or storm water is anticipated under the no action alternative. No actions would be taken to change surface water or storm water.
Groundwater 4.2.7	No impact to groundwater is anticipated under the proposed action. The demolition would not cause a discharge of pollution to groundwater.	No impact to groundwater is anticipated under the no action alternative. No demolition would occur, and no potential for pollution discharge would occur.
Cumulative Impacts 4.2.8	No potential for cumulative impacts is anticipated under the proposed action. The demolition projects would result in no significant impacts to human health or the environment. Therefore, there is no potential for cumulative impacts either at the site or in the surrounding area.	No potential for cumulative impacts is anticipated under the no action alternative. Continuing to maintain the buildings would result in no impacts to human health or the environment. Therefore, there is no potential for cumulative impacts either at the site or in the surrounding area.

Chapter 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the baseline conditions on the installation. Within this context, only specific components relevant to potential impacts are described in detail.

3.2 Description of the Affected Environment

3.2.1 Cultural Resources

An inventory and assessment of the Cold War-era (1945-1951) built environment at Columbus AFB was completed in December 2003 to assist the Air Force and AETC in meeting the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 60 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Building 1944 was recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP. Neither eligibility nor listing in the NRHP prevents demolition under the NHPA. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is required prior to demolition and is underway.

3.2.2 Land Use

The Comprehensive General Plan for Columbus AFB provides the direction needed to plan land uses for the future. It is comprised of the Composite Constraints and Opportunities Plan, the Infrastructure Plan, The Land-Use Plan, and the Capital Improvements Program Plan. The Composite Constraints and Opportunities Plan integrates natural and cultural resources information, environmental quality issues, airspace and airfield restrictions, and operational safety requirements. The Infrastructure Plan provides capacity analysis of utility delivery systems, age and condition of facilities, and proposed solutions. The Land Use Plan defines current land uses. The Capital Improvements Program Plan utilizes the other plans as a framework to direct construction and demolition spending in current, short range, and long range land use planning for the installation.

Building 1944 was constructed in 1959, prior to the advent of regulations regarding land use planning for airfields. The United Facilities Criteria 3-260-01, *Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design* (USC₁) provides standardized criteria for all Department of Defense (DOD) service components for planning and developing the layout of runways, taxiways, aprons, and related facilities for airfields and heliports. This regulation requires the clear zone for Air Force installations to be 3000ft by 3000ft. AFI 32-7063 *Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Program (AICUZ)* (USAF₄), sets forth land use compatibility guidelines for installations based on UFC criteria. AICUZ guidelines require that no new construction be erected in the clear zone except for navigational aids and essential operational requirements which must be located there for optimum performance. It recommends that base civil engineers relocate personnel-intensive facilities and facilities for other than flight operations outside the clear zones whenever possible. Existing facilities and land uses in the clear zone are permitted to continue under AICUZ, but UFC guidelines require a waiver if the clear zone is functionally less than the required size.

Building 1944 is located at the northwestern end of the runway, in the clear zone. This property is an "industrial" land use located on property designated as an "airfield" land use in the Land Use Plan. Due to the inconsistency, an airfield and airspace criteria waiver was obtained in 1991. The clear zone location of the building remains incompatible with the Land Use Plan.

3.2.3 Infrastructure

Water/Wastewater

Columbus AFB purchases its potable water from the Columbus Light and Water Company. The city distribution system design capacity is 14 million gallons per day (mgd) and daily (City of Columbus) consumption is estimated at 5 mgd. The company has a service agreement to provide up to 8 mgd of potable water to the base, and daily (Columbus AFB) consumption is estimated at 0.40 mgd. Base water is delivered to the base from Columbus Light and Water Department through a distribution main from the municipal plant to a 50,000 gallon clear well on the base. From the clear well it is pumped to the installation distribution system. Gravity feed pumps keep the water level constant in the water towers.

There are 180,054 linear feet of sewage and industrial waste collection mains (3500 LF listed as industrial waste main), generally inch diameter mains. Gravity drainage is used as much as possible. There are four lift stations on the installation for areas where gravity drainage is not possible. The City of Columbus extended its sewer distribution line from the city to the base and provides wastewater treatment services for the base. The connection was completed and became operational in October 1997. Wastewater on the base flows to the city distribution main close to the South Gate principally by gravity feed. The City of Columbus pumps the base sewage to the city treatment plant by a lift station near the South Gate. (USAF₁)

Building 1944 is provided water and wastewater service through the system of mains described above.

Energy

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) supplies electrical power to Columbus AFB through the Base substation owned by TVA. Total annual electricity consumption for FY 2007 on the installation was 42,080,823 kilowatt hours (kWh). Annual electricity consumption for Buildings 1944 is 167 kWh, or 0.0004% of annual consumption for the installation. The installation energy manager supplied the information in the attached table.

Electricity Consumption Kilowatt Hours (kWh)				
	FY 07	Facilities Proposed for Demolition	Demo Total	Installation Total
	Month	Building 1944		
	Oct	9		
	Nov	11		

	Dec	31		
	Jan	20		
	Feb	30		
	Mar	43		
	Apr	10		
	May	8		
	Jun	0		
	Jul	0		
	Aug	1		
	Sep	4		
Annual Consumption	-	167	167 kWh	42,080,823 kWh
Percentage of Total Base Consumption	-	0.0004%	0.0004% = <1%	100%

The Mississippi Valley Gas Company supplies gas to the Base. Total annual natural gas consumption for the installation is 42,080,823 cubic feet (cf). Annual natural gas consumption for Building 1944 is not metered because gas is no longer used in that building. The installation energy manager supplied the information in the attached table. For both electricity and natural gas, use of energy in the combined buildings proposed for demolition constitutes less than 1% of the usage for the installation.

Transportation/Traffic

Columbus AFB has access to a regional transportation network of highways. The base is accessed from US Highway 45 via a road from the east through the Main Gate, also called the East Gate, and from State Highway 373 through the South Gate. Level of Service (LOS) is a measure of roadway congestion ranging from LOS level A--least congested--to LOS level F--most congested. In general, traffic stream at Columbus AFB is at level-of-service LOS level A, *i.e.*, free flow, or the best operating conditions. In LOS A, individual users are virtually unaffected by the presence of others in the traffic stream. Simler Boulevard has the greatest traffic volume of any area on the Base, followed by Independence Avenue (which is the same as Highway 373 shown on Figure 1-1) and C Street. Only Simler Boulevard, Independence Avenue and C Streets have traffic volumes of greater than 1,800 vehicles per day.

A study of the East Gate and South gates was conducted in 2004 and found that traffic volumes at the gates are adequately supported by the existing gate and road configurations. Peak traffic observed at the East Gate was 468 vehicles per hour, while peak traffic at the South Gate was 293 vehicles per hour. Highest traffic volumes occurred from 0715 to 0730 hours. During the peak flow periods (7:15-7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and 4:15-4:25 p.m.) traffic is greater at the East Gate, primarily because of direct access to the four-lane US Highway 45 (USAF 1997). It is estimated that approximately 38.5 percent of the vehicles would enter through the South Gate ($[293 + 468 = 761; 293 / 761 \times 100 = 38.5]$) and 61.5 percent enter through the East Gate during highest traffic volume periods. (Parsons₁)

3.2.4 Solid Waste

Construction and demolition wastes on Columbus AFB are disposed in the Columbus Rubbish Site Landfill, which is owned by the City of Columbus. County ordinance requires the Base to first utilize the Columbus Rubbish Site Landfill if they are permitted to accept the waste. Materials accepted at the Columbus Rubbish Site Landfill include: construction and demolition debris; brick; mortar; concrete; stone and asphalt; cardboard; natural vegetation; appliances which have had the motor removed (except refrigerators); furniture; plastic; glass; crockery; metal (except containers); sawdust; wood shavings; and wood chips. The Columbus Rubbish Site Landfill is planned to close in five years.

The Golden Triangle Solid Waste Authority Landfill accepts all wastes. It is permitted for 31 million cubic yards of waste. At the end of CY 2007, 2,593,940 cubic yards had been used leaving 28,406,060 cubic yards of available space. At the current rate of use, the executive director of the landfill estimated it would be open for the next 75 -100 years.

3.2.5 Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Materials

All hazardous wastes on Columbus AFB are handled in accordance with the base's Hazardous Waste Management Program, which meets all applicable local, state, and federal laws and guidelines. Contractors working on Columbus AFB are required to manage their hazardous waste according to applicable local, state and federal laws and guidelines. In addition, the Asbestos Management Program and the Lead-Based Paint Management Program govern the abatement and disposal of asbestos and lead-based paint on Columbus AFB.

Hazardous materials use on Columbus AFB is managed in accordance with the Emergency Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and AFI 32-7086, Hazardous Materials Management. Contractors working on Columbus AFB are required to report hazardous material usage to the Hazardous Materials Management Program manager, and to maintain records in accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements.

Building 1944 includes asbestos containing materials, including 7.25 linear feet of TSI pipe joints, 150 flex joints, 15,758 square feet of floor tile and mastic. All exterior metal handles are painted with lead-based paint.

3.2.6 Surface Water/Storm Water

The Tombigbee River is located one mile northwest and the Buttahatchee River is approximately 1,000 feet north of Columbus AFB. The Buttahatchee River flows west along the northern boundary of the base before entering the Tombigbee River, which flows in a southerly direction along the installation's west boundary. SAC Lake, comprised of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, is the only significant body of water on the base and is located in an area remote from the proposed demolition projects.

The installation has four storm water outfalls that flow to the Buttahatchee River, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Stinson Creek. Installation environmental personnel sample the storm water outfalls annually. Columbus AFB manages storm water discharges in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #MSR001351.

Rainwater from Building 1944 drains to a 54-in concrete pipe to the west of Building 1944. The drainage then enters into the Alert Facility Stream (sampling point 2), which leads to an unnamed tributary of the Buttahatchee River.

3.2.7 Groundwater

Hydrogeology

The primary aquifers beneath Columbus AFB consist of sand and gravel beds associated with surficial terrace and alluvial deposits, and the underlying Eutaw Formation and Tuscaloosa Group (also referred to as the Gordo Formation). The Tuscaloosa Group and the overlying Eutaw Formation are classified as hydraulically separate aquifer systems based on the presence of laterally extensive clay confining beds at the top of the Tuscaloosa Group. The uppermost aquifer at the base is composed of the surficial terrace and alluvial deposits and the underlying Eutaw Formation. This aquifer is estimated to have a combined thickness of approximately 250 feet and is used as a source of water for domestic wells in the local area. The aquifer generally is subdivided into a "surficial" and Lower Eutaw Aquifer on the basis of geologic borehole logs and differences in hydraulic properties, including hydraulic conductivity and degree of aquifer confinement.

Surficial Aquifer

Recharge to the unconfined "surficial" aquifer occurs by downward infiltration of precipitation through the relatively permeable overlying deposits. The water-table depth in wells completed in the surficial aquifer generally ranges from 10 to 20 feet. The upper 5 to 10 feet of soil at the base generally consists of silty, sandy clay, and the aquifer consists of terrace and alluvial sand and gravel deposits. The surficial aquifer averages about 40 feet in saturated thickness. Groundwater flow in the surficial aquifer beneath the northern portion of the base is northwest toward the Buttahatchee River. Groundwater flow in the southern half of the base generally is toward the Tombigbee River and varies from west to southwest, depending on the specific location and season of the year.

Eutaw Aquifer

The Eutaw Aquifer is approximately 150 to 200 feet thick and receives most of its recharge north of Columbus AFB in the formation's outcrop area. This unit is characteristically heterogeneous in composition, thickness, and continuity throughout the base. The upper 40 to 100 feet of this unit generally consists of relatively low-permeability beds of silty, clayey sand, sandy clay, and thinly-laminated beds of dense, fine sand, silt, and clay. Small fractions of gravel are also documented. Relatively permeable sand beds, seven used as a source of water for domestic wells in the area, are also present in the Lower Eutaw at depths ranging from 80 to 250 feet below the ground surface. The regional groundwater flow direction in the Eutaw Aquifer within the vicinity of Columbus AFB is to the west-southwest. (Parsons)

An artesian measuring/monitoring well is located adjacent to Building 1944. It is currently permitted under MDEQ's Office of Land and Water Resources. The well was drilled in Jan

1959 and is 12" in diameter with an approximate depth of 456 ft. The well acts as the only source of monitoring the Coker Aquifer in our region, and will remain open.

Building 1944 is located in an area remote from historical contamination associated with the installation restoration program.

3.2.8 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes other actions. Foreseeable projects are described in section 2.5 of this document.

Chapter 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for comparing the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed action and the no action alternative. The potential effects on environmental resources from implementing each alternative are described. This chapter only discusses resources that have any potential for impacts. Resources that would not be impacted are discussed in greater detail in chapter 1.

4.2 Description of the Effects of Both Alternatives on the Affected Environment

4.2.1 Cultural Resources

Methodology: An impact to cultural resources would be considered significant if it resulted in noncompliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Proposed action:

A long-term, adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the proposed action because Building 1944 was identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places {*Columbus AFB Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures Inventory and Assessment, 2003* (USAF₃)}, and because demolition of the building would constitute permanent physical destruction of this eligible site. Mitigation is defined by United States Code (USC) Title 40§1508.20 as "compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments." The adverse impact of the destruction of the building would be mitigated through the archival of architectural and photographic documentation of the site (substitute resources under the mitigation definition) as required by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Original photographs would be maintained in the wing historian's office, and original construction drawings would be maintained in the engineering vault. Copies of the required documentation would be sent to the SHPO in accordance with the NHPA.

No action alternative:

No impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the no action alternative because no demolition would occur.

4.2.2 Land Use

Methodology: An impact to land use would be considered significant if land uses on the installation conflicted with UFC 3-260-01 *Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design*, AFI 32-7063 *Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Program*, or the Columbus AFB Land Use Plan.

Proposed Action:

A long-term, positive impact to installation land use is anticipated under the proposed action. The demolition of Building 1944 would eliminate the development in the clear zone and the associated airfield and airspace criteria waiver. In addition, the property would change from

an "industrial" land use to an "airfield" land use, making it compatible with the Land Use Plan.

No action alternative:

A long-term adverse impact to installation land use is anticipated under the no action alternative because Building 1944 would continue to be an incompatible land use under the land use plan. This would be the only impact because the building would remain compliant under the regulations due to the airfield and airspace criteria waiver, which would remain in effect.

4.2.3 Infrastructure

Methodology: An impact to infrastructure would be considered significant if the proposed action increased demands on existing systems enough to result in the need for additional capacity or new facilities.

Proposed Action:

Implementing the proposed action would have no impact on water/wastewater or energy for the installation because the building slated for demolition currently represent less than 1% of installation energy and water/wastewater demand. No additional infrastructure would be required to support water/wastewater or energy requirements for the installation after the demolition is complete.

Implementing the proposed action would have no impact on traffic infrastructure because loads of demolition waste would be carefully scheduled to avoid conflicting with traffic during peak traffic flow periods, and to avoid interference with flightline traffic. Because of these precautions, no additional roads or other infrastructure would be required to support traffic on the installation. Careful monitoring for foreign object debris (FOD) would be required during the demolition of Building 1944 because of its proximity to the flightline. After the demolition, the roads to the building would be used less, creating diminished maintenance requirements.

No action Alternative:

Implementing the no action alternative would have no impact on installation infrastructure because no changes to infrastructure would occur.

4.2.4 Solid Waste

Methodology: An impact from solid wastes would be considered significant if the temporary increase of solid wastes from the proposed demolition projects resulted in the premature closure of an area landfill.

Proposed Action:

Implementing the proposed action is anticipated to have no significant impact to solid wastes because the executive directors of both Columbus Rubbish Site Landfill and Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Authority Landfill have stated that they are planned to close in 5 years and 75-100 years, respectively. They were informed of the square footage of the buildings to

be demolished and both stated that the additional solid waste from those projects would not impact projected closure dates for either landfill.

No Action Alternative:

Implementing the no action alternative is anticipated to have no impact to solid waste because no demolition would occur and no additional solid waste would be generated.

4.2.5 Hazardous Waste / Hazardous Materials

Methodology: An impact from hazardous wastes or hazardous materials would be considered significant if improper storage or handling of either resulted in harm to human health or the environment.

Proposed action:

Implementing the proposed action is anticipated to have no impact to hazardous waste. The demolition would result in the generation of demolition debris. A study was performed which determined that Building 1944 includes asbestos containing materials and lead-based paint. The wastes would be managed in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Management Program, the Asbestos Management Program and the Lead-Based Paint Management Program, and with federal, state, and local regulations. These programs and regulations are designed to prevent improper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes and to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

Implementing the proposed action is anticipated to have no impact on hazardous materials. Any hazardous materials utilized during the demolition would be managed in accordance with the AFI 32-7086 Hazardous *Materials Management*, the Installation Hazardous Materials Management Program (IH MMP), with and with all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations. This program and the regulations are designed to prevent improper storage and handling of hazardous materials and to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

No action alternative:

No additional hazardous waste generation or hazardous materials usage is associated with the no action alternative and no impacts would be anticipated.

4.2.6 Surface Water/Storm Water

Methodology: An impact to surface water or storm water would be considered significant if it resulted in pollution to surface water or storm water or if it adversely affected Columbus AFB drainage.

Proposed action:

Implementing the proposed action would result in a long-term, positive impact to existing drainage because impervious cover would be removed at Building 1944. Grading and landscaping are planned and drainage and storm water quality would be anticipated to improve.

Implementing the proposed action would have the potential to impact surface water and storm water because demolition generates wastes and silt which can be carried from the demolition

sites to surface water and storm water outfalls by wind and rainfall. No impact to water quality is anticipated because best management practices would be implemented in accordance with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to prevent pollution of surface and storm water.

No action alternative:

Implementing the no action alternative would result in no impact to surface water or storm water because no demolition would occur. Therefore, no changes to drainage patterns or particulate emissions would occur.

4.2.7 Groundwater

Methodology: An impact to groundwater would be considered significant if it resulted in discharge of pollution to either the surficial aquifer or the deep Eutaw aquifer.

Proposed Action:

Implementing the proposed action would result in no impact to groundwater because all hazardous materials/hazardous wastes would be utilized and disposed in accordance with established plans and procedures. Wellhead protection would be installed for the artesian monitoring well. No pollution from the demolition projects would reach the aquifers.

No action alternative:

Implementing the no action alternative would result in no impact to groundwater because no demolition would occur, and no potential for pollution discharge would occur.

4.2.8 Cumulative Impacts

Methodology: A cumulative impact would be considered significant if the proposed action in combination with foreseeable actions created a significant impact to human health or the environment as defined for each resource previously described in this document.

Proposed action:

Implementing the proposed action would result in no significant impacts to human health or the environment. Therefore, there is no potential for cumulative impacts either at the site or in the surrounding area.

No action alternative:

Implementing the no action alternative would result in no significant impacts to human health or the environment. Therefore, there is no potential for cumulative impacts either at the demolition sites or in the surrounding area.

4.3 Summary of Impacts of Proposed Action

A long-term, adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated under the proposed action due to the demolition of building. The impact of the demolition would be mitigated through the archival of architectural and photographic documentation as required by the SHPO in accordance with the NHPA.

A long-term, positive impact to installation land use is anticipated under the proposed action. The demolition of Building 1944 would eliminate the development in the clear zone and the associated airspace and criteria waiver. In addition the property would change from an "industrial" land use to an "airfield" land use, making it compatible with the Land Use Plan.

A long-term, positive impact to storm water (drainage) is anticipated under the proposed action because impervious cover would be removed at Building 1944 and replaced with vegetation.

4.4 Conclusion

Based on the findings of this environmental assessment, no significant adverse impacts on human health or the natural environment would be anticipated as a result of demolishing Building 1944, and the proposed action is selected as the preferred alternative.

Appendix A LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Degree	Professional Discipline	Years of Experience
Kathy Edwards	B.A., Environmental Science	Environmental Compliance Specialist	11

Appendix B LIST OF PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Kathy Lunceford, Vicksburg Ecological Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Mildred Tharpe
State Clearinghouse for Federal Programs
1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite E
501 North West St.
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Jim Woodrick
State Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940
FAX 601-576-6955

**Appendix C INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**



HEADQUARTERS 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING
14TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

31 Mar 08

Michael F. Smith, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 114
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

Ms. Kathy Lunceford
Vicksburg Ecological Service
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Dear Ms. Lunceford

The U.S. Air Force has prepared the attached draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a project to demolish Building 1944, Strategic Air Command (SAC) Alert Facility on Columbus AFB. The demolition is needed because the building is in the clear zone and because it is impracticable to repurpose the building or continue maintaining it.

No threatened or endangered species are known to exist anywhere on Columbus AFB according to the Endangered and Threatened Species Survey of Columbus AFB, July 2005. Please provide any additional comments or information by April 30, 2008 directly to: Ms. Kathy Edwards, 14 CES/CEV, 555 Simler Blvd. Suite 102, Columbus AFB, MS 39710. Your assistance in providing information is greatly appreciated. Ms. Edwards can be reached at (662) 434-7144.

Sincerely

MICHAEL F. SMITH, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight



HEADQUARTERS 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING
14TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

31 Mar 08

Michael F. Smith, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 114
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

Ms. Mildred Tharpe
State Clearinghouse for Federal Programs
1301 Woolfolk Bldg, Suite E
501 North West St.
Jackson MS 39213

Dear Ms. Tharpe

The U.S. Air Force has prepared the attached draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a project to demolish Building 1944, SAC Alert Facility on Columbus AFB, and to document the decision that there would be no environmental impacts associated with the demolition. The demolition is needed because the building is in the clear zone and because it is impracticable to repurpose the building or continue maintaining it.

The Air Force is requesting input from federal, state, and local agencies on the draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*. Please identify any resources or projects within your agency's purview that may be potentially impacted or could add to the cumulative impact analysis. Please provide detailed information for any resources or projects that would occur during the same period as the Air Force's proposal. Please provide any comments or information by April 30, 2008 directly to: Ms. Kathy Edwards, 14 CES/CEV, 555 Simler Blvd. Suite 102, Columbus AFB, MS 39710. Your assistance in providing information is greatly appreciated. Ms. Edwards can be reached at (662) 434-7144.

Sincerely

MICHAEL F. SMITH, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment:

1. Draft Environmental Assessment
2. Draft Finding of No Significant Impact



HEADQUARTERS 14TH FLYING TRAINING WING
14TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI

31 Mar 08

Michael F. Smith, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 114
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

Mr. Jim Woodrick
State Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940
FAX 601-576-6955

Dear Mr. Woodrick

The U.S. Air Force has prepared the attached draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a project to demolish Building 1944, Strategic Alert Command (SAC) Alert Facility on Columbus AFB, and to document the decision that there would be no environmental impacts associated with the demolition. The demolition is needed because the building is in the clear zone and because it is impracticable to repurpose the building or continue maintaining it.

The Air Force is requesting input from federal, state, and local agencies on the draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*. Building 1944 was identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the 2003 Columbus AFB Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures Inventory and Assessment. The Air Force is in the process of providing detailed architectural and photographic documentation on the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Alert facility, in accordance with the National Park Service's *Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation*. Please provide any comments or information on the EA by April 30, 2008 directly to: Ms. Kathy Edwards, 14 CES/CEV, 555 Simler Blvd. Suite 102, Columbus AFB, MS 39710. Your assistance in providing information is greatly appreciated. Ms. Edwards can be reached at (662) 434-7144.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. SMITH, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight

Attachment:

1. Draft Environmental Assessment
2. Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

EO 12372
WEEKLY LOG
PGM=N150

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

DATE 04/03/08
04/10/08

MS APPLICANT NO.: MS080403-002
IMPACT AREA(S): LOWNDES

CONTACT: KATHY EDWARDS
PHONE: (662) 434-7144

APPLICANT:
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
14 CES/CEV
555 SIMLER BLVD., SUITE 102
COLUMBUS AFB MS 39710

FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. AIR FORCE

FUNDING: FEDERAL
LOCAL
TOTAL

APPLICANT
OTHER

STATE
PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) TO ASSESS POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS OF PROJECT TO DEMOLISH BUILDING 1944, STRATEGIC AIR
COMMAND (SAC) ALERT FACILITY ON COLUMBUS AFB, & TO DOCUMENT
THAT NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WOULD BE ASSOCIATED THERETO.
CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER

1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 (601) 359-6762

- THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ONLY -

STATE AGENCIES MUST REVIEW CERTAIN PROPOSALS PRIOR TO
RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS CLEARANCE.
THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REVIEWS ANY
PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS A HIGHWAY OR AN
APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CULTURAL RESOURCES AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY, OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, REVIEWS APPLICATIONS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT. THE
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES REVIEWS APPLICATIONS
FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL PROGRAM.

IF APPLICATIONS ARE FOR PROJECTS OF LOCAL IMPACT, THEY
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT AT THE SAME TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF OUR
REQUIREMENTS IS THE USE OF STANDARD FORM 424. THE DEPARTMENT
OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION PREPARES AND DISTRIBUTES A WEEKLY
LOG LISTING PERTINENT INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS FORM. OUR
ADDRESS IS 1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 AND
OUR PHONE NUMBER IS (601)359-6762.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

April 15, 2008

Mr. Michael F. Smith
Chief, Environmental Flight
Columbus Air Force Base
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 108
Columbus AFB, MS 39710-6010

Dear Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your environmental assessment dated March 2008, regarding the demolition of Building 1944, Strategic Air Command Alert Facility on the Columbus Air Force Base, Lowndes County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e) and the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The subject building would be completely removed from the site and the land use would change from industrial to airfield.

There are no federally listed species or their habitats located on the subject site. Therefore, the Service has no objection to the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office, telephone: (601) 321-1132.

Sincerely,

Kathy W. Lunceford
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

April 30, 2008

Michael F. Smith, REM
Chief, Environmental Flight
555 Simler Boulevard, Suite 114
Columbus AFB MS 39710-6010

RE: Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Demolition of SAC Alert Facility,
Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi, MDAH Project Log #04-055-08,
Lowndes County

Dear Mr. Smith:

We have reviewed the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the demolition of the SAC Alert Facility at the Columbus Air Force Base (AFB), received on April 4, 2008, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. Unfortunately, we cannot concur with the finding of no significant impact. While we have requested architectural and photographic documentation of the structure prior to its demolition, as noted in the document, we are not able to concur that the impact to the resource should be considered insignificant, as demolition is clearly and always an adverse effect. The request for architectural and photographic documentation of the structure prior to its demolition is mitigation for the adverse effect, not minimization of the adverse effect.

If you have any questions, please call Bill Gatlin, MDAH National Register Coordinator, at (601) 576-6940.

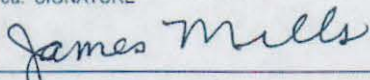
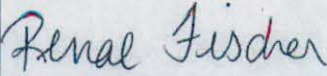
Sincerely,

Jim Woodrick
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: H.T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Appendix D AIR FORCE FORM 813

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS			Report Control Symbol RCS: 07-30	
INSTRUCTIONS: Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).				
SECTION I - PROPONENT INFORMATION				
1. TO (Environmental Planning Function) 14 CES/CEV	2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) 14 CES/CECD	2a. TELEPHONE NO. 7943		
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION Demolition of Building 1944				
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (Identify decision to be made and need date) see page 2				
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.) see page 2				
6. PROPONENT APPROVAL (Name and Grade) James Mills	6a. SIGNATURE 		6b. DATE	
SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. (Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; - = adverse effect; U = unknown effect)				
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. AIR QUALITY (Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION				
17. <input type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # _____; OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.				
18. REMARKS Columbus Air Force Base is located in an area that is in attainment; therefore, a conformity determination is not required.				
19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade) Renae Fischer Acting Chief, Environmental Flight	19a. SIGNATURE 		19b. DATE 28 Aug 07	

4.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

4.1 The purpose of the action is to eliminate an obsolete facility.

4.2 The action is needed to eliminate unnecessary expenditures to maintain an obsolete building. In addition, removal of the SAC Alert area building would eliminate the need for a flightline waiver.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

5.1 Proposal: 14 CES/CECD proposes to demolish the following buildings: Building 1944. The building would be removed from the site and the grounds would be restored and landscaped as appropriate.

5.2 Decision that Must Be Made: The decision that must be made by the Air Force is whether to demolish the building or not, and if so, where, how, and when to accomplish the action.

5.3 Anticipated Environmental Issues

5.3.1 Hazardous Waste Disposal: Asbestos containing materials, lead-based paints and other hazardous wastes generated during demolition would be identified and removed from the site concurrent with demolition activities.

5.3.2 Noise: Noise associated with the proposed action would occur only as a result of the demolition process, would be temporary, and would not interfere with existing noisemaps for the installation.

5.3.3 Air Quality on and Off Base: SAC Alert had a 35 kW generator which was previously removed. Any heating boilers serving the building would be removed.

5.3.4 Aesthetic Quality of the Building and Grounds: This building is old and deteriorated and removal and associated landscaping would be an aesthetic improvement.

5.3.5 Traffic on the Flightline: Demolition work at the SAC Area would have a small impact on Flightline traffic, which would be minimized by designating haul routes and schedules. Barricades and continuous cleanup would be used to prevent FOD incidents. Once the work is completed and grounds restored, the requirement for the flightline waiver to allow the building would be eliminated. This would create a permanent positive overall impact to traffic on the flightline.

5.3.6 Water/Stormwater/Wetlands/Floodplains: Building 1944 is near the 100 year floodplain and care would be taken to ensure that demolition activities would cause no disturbance to the floodplain. The sites would be graded and landscaped appropriately to ensure proper drainage. No impacts to water supply, stormwater or wetlands are anticipated. Building 1944 is served by the same water/wastewater mains which service the rest of the installation. The system would be capped during the demolition of the building. There would be no impact to wastewater usage because the building is not occupied.

5.3.7 Safety and Occupational Health: Impacts to safety and occupational health would be limited to asbestos and lead contamination in the buildings and standard construction/demolition issues.

5.3.8 Cultural Resources: Building 1944 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, per a 2003 Cold War Era Buildings and Structures Inventory and Assessment. Consultation with the SHPO would be required before the demolition could proceed.

5.4 Selection Criteria: Demolition actions do not have any selection criteria associated with them.

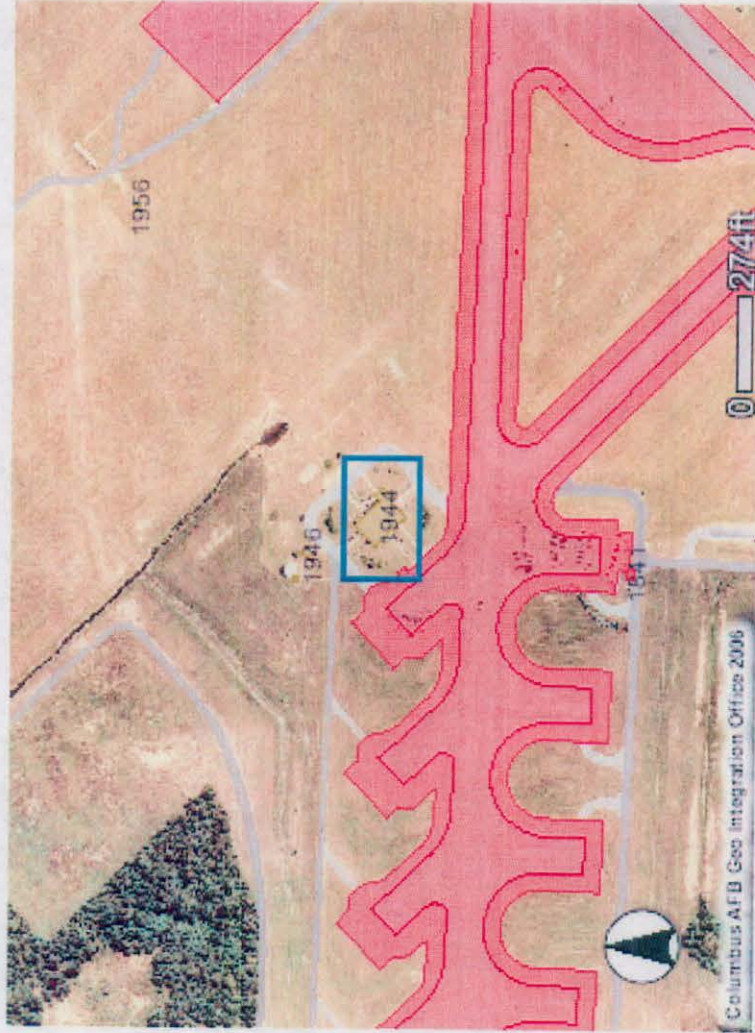
5.4.4 Environmental Requirements: In accordance with the CAFB Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, a site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan would be required for each demolition site. In accordance with the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, a solid waste management plan would be required for each demolition project. All materials suitable for recycling would be recycled. Landscaping would be in compliance with CAFBI 32-7004 Wing Tree Policy, and with AFI 13-213 Airfield Management.

5.5 Description of the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action Alternatives

5.5.1 No-action Alternative: The no action alternative is the continued use of the existing facility, and would involve no new demolition. This is unacceptable because the continued upkeep for these buildings is expensive and wasteful.

5.5.2 Proposed Action Alternative: There are no other feasible alternatives because of the age and poor condition of the building. Renovation would not be cost effective.

Columbus AFB



Location of Building 1944 (SAC Alert Facility)

Appendix E AIR FORCE FORM 1391

1. COMPONENT AIR FORCE		FY 2008 PROJECT DATA (computer generated)		2. DATE	
3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI			4. PROJECT TITLE DEMO VARIOUS SAC ALERT FACILITIES		
5. PROGRAM ELEMENT 85793	6. CATEGORY CODE 141-459	7. PROJECT NUMBER EEPZ071004	8. PROJECT COST (\$000) EEIC 53610 600		
9. COST ESTIMATES					
ITEM		U/M	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	COST (\$000)
PRIMARY FACILITIES					600.0
DEMO ALERT FACILITY		LS			(600.0)
SUBTOTAL					600.0
PROFIT AND OVERHEAD (.0%)					0.0
TOTAL FUNDED COST					600.0
UNFUNDED COST (.0%)					0.0
TOTAL REQUEST					600.0
10. Description of Proposed Work: Demolish Sac Alert Facility and associated support items. Asbestos must be properly removed and disposed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Grade site for proper drainage and sod. Any leftover soil from facility berm will be stockpiled on base for later use.					
11. Requirement: 0 SF Adequate: 0 SF Substandard: 18360 SF					
<u>PROJECT:</u> Demo Sac Alert Facility					
<u>REQUIREMENT:</u> Reduce obsolete real property facility footprint					
<u>CURRENT SITUATION:</u> SAC alert area is not required, and the facilities are in very poor condition. Since these facilities are located within the runway clear zone, they should be demolished as soon as possible to improve safety of flying operations. Various organizations have occupied it or used it for storage over recent years but there would be no great impact to completely vacate and demolish.					
<u>IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED:</u> Facility will continue to degrade, becoming a haven for pests and a danger for personnel. Facility will continue to be a flight safety hazard to all aircrew members using the runway.					
<u>ADDITIONAL:</u> POC 14 CES/CC, DSN 742-7327.					
14 CES/CEC Coordination:					
14 CES/CEV Coordination:					
Approval:					
RODNEY N. ROBERTS, P.E. Deputy Base Civil Engineer					

Appendix F AIRSPACE AND AIRFIELD CRITERIA WAIVER

REQUEST FOR AIRFIELD AND AIRSPACE CRITERIA WAIVER

Submit in two copies (typewritten or printed)

SECTION I. (To be completed by installation Civil Engineering)

HQ ATC/DEPR

FROM 14 ABG/DEEV
Columbus AFB MS

1. ACTION REQUESTED

☒ WAIVER ☒ Permanent ☐ Temporary

☐ AMENDMENT TO PERMANENT WAIVER

☐ EXTENSION TO TEMPORARY WAIVER

☐ CANCELLATION OF WAIVER

☐ OTHER:

2. CRITERIA TO BE WAIVED

REGULATION/MANUAL

☒ AFR 86-14 ☐ AFR 88-16 ☐ AFM 88-14

☐ OTHER:

TABLE NUMBER, PARAGRAPH, CATEGORY, ITEM, ETC.

Table 2-7

3. DESCRIPTION OF WAIVER (Include as much information as possible in graphic form. As a minimum, locate the violation on 8 1/2 x 11" cutout of Tab E-1, modified to show location of all existing waivers. Depict obstructions protruding into transitional slopes in a graphic manner. Provide the types of equipment to be installed which will violate criteria. With temporary waivers for construction, describe the kind of equipment to be installed which will violate criteria. With temporary waivers for construction, describe the kind of equipment to be used (for example, D-8 bulldozers, trucks, etc.) For temporary waivers, include period waiver is to be in effect. For waivers to airfield marking or lighting, illustrate the change being requested. (Continue on reverse or separate page and identify by item number.))

Background: Columbus AFB was a SAC (B-52) base from 1959 to 1969, following which the installation reverted to ATC as a UPT pilot training base. The single taxiway for the 12,000 ft SAC runway was converted to a parallel, inside runway (31L/13R) and a new taxiway was constructed parallel and 650 ft south. The new runway had a 2000 ft wide clear zone until December 1983. USAF guidance mandated all runways have 3000' x 3000' clear zones. (See Tab E-1 attached). The 3000' x 3000' clear zones at the north ends of runways 31C/13C and 13R/31L overlap. The following facilities presently exist within these two clear zones: Fac 1944 (SAC Alert Facility), 1946 (Building Water Supply), 1947 (Electric (Cont'd))

4. JUSTIFICATION OF WAIVER (Explain why the criteria needs to be waived. Operational concerns which bear on a violation should be discussed.) (Continue on reverse or separate page and identify by number.)

Request this area be permanently waived (grandfathered) for airfield/airspace criteria for exclusion from the USAF/LEE policy letter dated 3 Oct 83, on clear zone construction. This action would alleviate necessity for temporary airfield/airspace criteria waiver requests for maintenance, repair and renovation projects on these facilities. This action would correct an anachronism unique to Columbus AFB clear zone configuration and conflicts with USAF clear zone policy. Suggest this area be included with permanent waiver #2 (Existing and Proposed Fac in Clear Zone), or permanent waiver #4 (SAC Alert Area Entry Point).

5. PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFETY (Describe the safety precautions which will be taken to minimize hazards. These precautions would include items such as special painting or lighting of obstructions, briefing programs to flying personnel and/or construction crews on safety and procedures for foreign object detection and control.) (Continue on reverse or separate page and identify by item number.)

The existing facilities in these clear zone areas are clear zone violations.

1. Aircrew members will be briefed on the obstructions.

2. Fire Department, Security Police, and emergency vehicles will be briefed on the obstructions.

6. INSTALLATION COORDINATION AND APPROVAL (Initials and date)

DEEV AIR 19 Apr 91 DOOB NTP 19 Apr 91 SE 19 Apr 91

DATE 30 Apr 91 NAME & TITLE OF REQUESTER (Base Civil Engineer or Deputy) EDWIN M. LARSEN, Lt Col, USAF
Base Civil Engineer

SIGNATURE [Signature]

7. ATTACHMENTS: 1. TAB E-1 CUTOUT 2. OBSTRUCTION SITE PLAN 3. OTHER:

SECTION II. COORDINATION/CONCURRENCE IN GRANTING WAIVER (TO BE COMPLETED BY HQ ATC) (Initials & date)

DEPR [Signature] MAY 91 DOTA [Signature] 26 Jun 91 IGFF [Signature] 28 June 91

APPROVAL

WAIVER NO COL-55 COL-56P

WAIVER TYPE

PERM

PERIOD

NAME & TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL RONALD R. VOORHEES, Lt Col, USAF
Chief, Plans & Community Planning Division

SIGNATURE [Signature]

NOTE: Every precaution will be taken to minimize hazards created by this deviation from standard criteria.

Appendix G LIST OF REFERENCES

- ACOE₁ United States Army Corps of Engineers, *Wetlands Delineation*, US Army Corp of Engineers, Mobile District, 31 May 02
- CFR₁ Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Section 989, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*, published in The Federal Register on 15 Jul 99 and 28 Mar 01
- DOD₁ *Department of Defense, Base Closure and Realignment Report*, May 2005.
- Parsons₁ Environmental Assessment, Installation Development and Base Realignment and Closure Actions, January 2007
- UFC₁ 3-260-01, *Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design*, May 2006
- USAF₁ CH2MHill, *General Plan, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi*, October 2004
- USAF₂ United States Air Force, AFI 32-7086 *Hazardous Materials Management*, 1 November 2004
- USAF₃ *Columbus Air Force Base Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures Inventory and Assessment*, Geo-Marine, Inc., December 2003
- USAF₄ AFI 32-7063 *Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Program*, September 2005
- USDA₁ United States Department of Agriculture, *Endangered and Threatened Species Survey of Columbus Air Force Base, Columbus, MS*, 2005
- WHITE HOUSE 1994. EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations*, 11 February 1994, as amended by EO 12948, 1 January 1995.